



5 September 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Publicity on Failure of Soviet Space Probes

1. At the request of Mr. Carl Kaysen, I attach herewith a fact sheet on six Soviet failures in probing space. To the best of our knowledge, these are the only such probes they have attempted. As I understand it, this fact sheet is to be used obliquely by NASA in response to a letter to be written to Mr. Webb by Mr. Lloyd Berkner.

2. The fact sheet contains much information which is classified Secret. The information from which the fact sheet was developed has been obtained from many intelligence sources, some of them our most sensitive. There is enough collateral information available to warrant unclassified publication of this fact sheet without blowing the cover of our sensitive sources. I am concerned over the opening up of this entire matter of our knowledge of Soviet activities to the general scrutiny of the public, and particularly the probing press. As you know, once a

SECRET

subject is open to public discussion, most people having access to highly sensitive information let down their guard and blurt out the truth. I am fearful that this will occur in this instance and that our entire box of tricks will be subject to the most careful and painstaking scrutiny by public information media. I trust that all concerned will bear this in mind to avoid the proliferation that could easily occur.

3. In order that the intelligence community be at least partially relieved of the probing outlined above, it would be advisable to make clear that this type of information is a normal collection responsibility of the NORAD SPADAT system.

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Acting Director

Attachment

MSC:bec

Orig & 1 - Handcarried to addressee via Mr. Kaysen

✓ 1 - DD/R w/cy attachment

1 - AD/SI w/cy attachment

1 - DDCI w/cy attachment

1 - ER via Executive Director w/cy attachment

25X1A9a

1 - O/DCI [REDACTED] w/cy attachment

SECRET